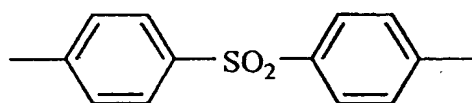


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

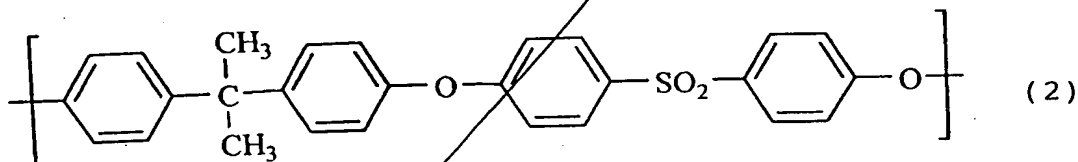
1. An endless belt for electrophotography which is obtainable continuously by melt extrusion from a circular die; the endless belt comprising a layer containing a thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure represented by the following Formula

(1)

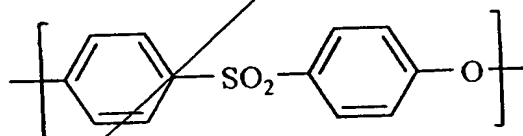


(1)

2. An endless belt according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure is a thermoplastic resin having a structural unit represented by the following Formula (2) or (3)



(2)



(3)

3. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a thickness of from 40  $\mu\text{m}$  to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a thickness not larger than 1/3 of the slit width

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of the circular die used.

5. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a thickness not larger than  $1/5$  of the slit width of the circular die used.

6. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has an external diameter of from 50% to 400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used.

7. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has an external diameter of from more than 100% to 400% or less of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used.

8. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has an external diameter of from 105% to 400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used.

9. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a resistance of from  $1 \times 10^0 \Omega$  to  $1 \times 10^{14} \Omega$ .

10. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a surface-direction resistance whose maximum value is within 100 times the minimum value thereof.

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C2C

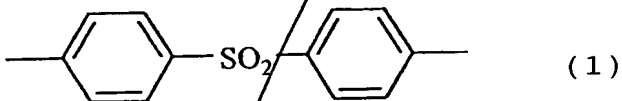
11. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a thickness-direction resistance whose maximum value is within 100 times the minimum value thereof.

5 12. An endless belt according to claim 1, which is an intermediate transfer belt.

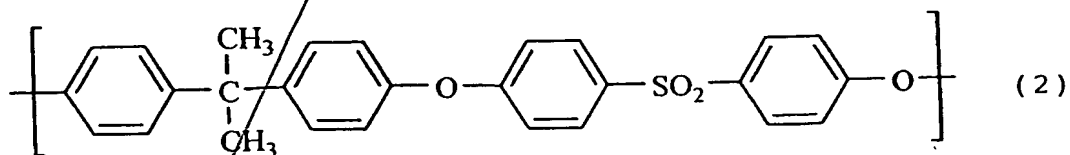
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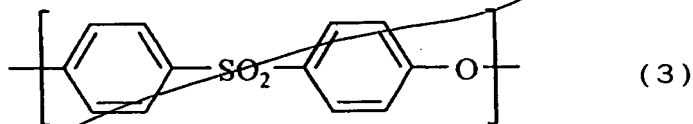
13. An endless belt according to claim 1, which is a transfer material carrying belt.

10 14. A process for producing an endless belt for electrophotography; the process comprising the step of melt-extruding a thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure represented by the following Formula (1), from a circular die to produce the endless belt continuously



20 15. A process according to claim 14, wherein said thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure is a thermoplastic resin having a structural unit represented by the following Formula (2) or (3)





16. A process according to claim 14, wherein said  
5 endless belt has a thickness of from 40  $\mu\text{m}$  to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

17. A process according to claim 14, wherein said  
endless belt has a thickness not larger than 1/3 of the  
slit width of the circular die used.

18. A process according to claim 14, wherein said  
endless belt has a thickness not larger than 1/5 of the  
slit width of the circular die used.

19. A process according to claim 14, wherein said  
endless belt has an external diameter of from 50% to  
400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the  
circular die used.

20. A process according to claim 14, wherein said  
endless belt has an external diameter of from more than  
100% to 400% or less of the external diameter of the  
die slit of the circular die used.

21. A process according to claim 14, wherein said  
endless belt has an external diameter of from 105% to  
400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the

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circular die used.

22. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a resistance of from  $1 \times 10^0 \Omega$  to  $1 \times 10^{14} \Omega$ .

23. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a surface-direction resistance whose maximum value is within 100 times the minimum value thereof.

24. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a thickness-direction resistance whose maximum value is within 100 times the minimum value thereof.

25. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt is an intermediate transfer belt.

26. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt is a transfer material carrying belt.

27. A process according to claim 14, wherein a gas is blown to the inside of a cylindrical film of the thermoplastic resin melt-extruded from the circular die, to make the endless belt have an external diameter larger than the external diameter of the die slit of

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the circular die.

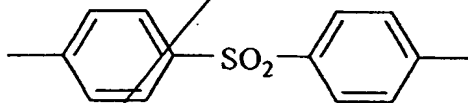
28. A process according to claim 14, wherein an extrusion material to be melt-extruded which contains the thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure has a breaking extension of 2% or more.

29. A process according to claim 14, wherein an extrusion material to be melt-extruded which contains the thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure has a tensile breaking strength of 40 MPa or above.

30. An image forming apparatus for electrophotography comprising;

an endless belt which is obtainable continuously by melt extrusion from a circular die;

said endless belt comprising a layer containing a thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure represented by the following Formula (1)



(1)

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